



CONNECTICUT  
HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, March 6, 2012**

**SB 252, An Act Authorizing Flavoring Agents For Prescription Products**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 252, An Act Authorizing Flavoring Agents For Prescription Products**. CHA supports the bill in concept, but seeks clarifying language.

The bill seeks to clarify the conditions under which it is appropriate to add flavoring agents to prescription medications, which is important for patient safety and to reduce the times when unnecessary adulteration of medications might otherwise occur in the retail or outpatient setting. The bill as drafted would allow flavoring agents to be added to prescription medications at the request of the patient or the prescribing professional.

CHA asks that you revise subsection (b) to also clarify that hospitals are permitted to add flavoring agents. This is a common practice of hospitals that should be preserved. It is particularly important for pediatric and oncology patients' comfort and ability to take certain medications. Hospital pharmacies follow very stringent pharmacy standards for preparation and handling of medications, including those set forth in Section 1(a) of the bill, which ensure that hospital pharmacy decisions to add flavoring agents are reliable and appropriate.

(b) A flavoring agent may be added to a prescription product by (1) a pharmacist upon the request of the prescribing practitioner, patient for whom the prescription is ordered or such patient's agent, or (2) an institution licensed as a hospital, as defined in subsection (b) of section 19a-490 of the general statutes.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.